

Message Text

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62/50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 SIL-01

LAB-06 FMC-04 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 CG-00 IO-14 /115 W

----- 003441

R 191324Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1715

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0150

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A O N E

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SF

SUBJ: DURBAN PORT CONGESTION WORSENS

REF: DURBAN 136

1. APRIL 18 DURBAN HARBOR REACHED WORST CONGESTION LEVEL SINCE PRESENT CRISIS BEGAN LAST NOVEMBER. THIRTY-FOUR SHIPS NOW IN OUTER ANCHORAGE WAITING UP TO TEN DAYS FOR BERTHS.

2. LOCAL SHIPPING OFFICIALS HAVE DISPUTED CLAIMS BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY AND HARBOR OFFICIALS THAT LARGE TONNAGE OF CARGO HANDLED IS PRIME CAUSE CONGESTION, NOTING TOTAL TONNAGE HANDLED BY PORT DURING DECEMBER-FEBRUARY ACTUALLY DECREASED SLIGHTLY FROM SAME PERIOD YEAR AGO. NUMBER OF SHIPS CALLING DURBAN ALSO DROPPED FROM 1350 TO 1303 OVER SAME PERIOD. ONLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IS STELL CARGO LANDED, WHICH IS TWENTY TIMES PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES.

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3. DURBAN SHIPPING AGENTS FEAR SOME SHIPPING LINES MAY

STOP CALLING DURBAN. ALSO, DUE SURCHARGES IT NOW CHEAPER
USE PORT ELIZABETH AND EAST LONDON FOR SOME COMMODITIES
IN SPITE EXTRA RAIL COSTS TO REEF. FAR EAST FREIGHT
AGREEMENT SURCHARGE EXPECTED BE SHARPLY INCREASED WITHIN
NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. IN NEW ATTEMPT OVERCOME BACKLOG PORT OFFICIALS STARTING
FIVE-HOUR SATURDAY SHIFT IN ADDITION FULL SHIFTS WORKED
OTHER SIX DAYS. BUT THEY SAY DOUBLE-SHIFTS NOT POSSIBLE
DUE SHORTAGE WHITE LABOR AND PRESENT CONSTRAINTS ON USE
MORE SKILLED NON-WHITE WORKERS ON DOCKS.
HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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